



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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WINTER 2011

6 STUDENTS TAKE LESSONS FALL 2011

Fall semester students included first semester carillon student Erin Reger (freshman in Pre-Business), Lucy O'Connor (sophomore in World Languages and Cultures), Jeremiah Evans (senior in Software Engineering), first semester carillon student Craig Cunningham (senior in Biology) and Josh Hellyer (senior in Community and Regional Planning). Students played their final concert of the semester at noon on December 9th.



Student player Craig's reflection on his first semester of lessons: When I began taking carillon lessons, I had no idea how much fun I would have. The thought of playing the carillon for the entire campus is quite daunting yet exhilarating! I have appreciated the opportunity to play music in a new and exciting way that few students know about. I remember telling all of my friends and family that I was taking lessons from Dr. Tam on the carillon and seeing their excitement. The whole experience has been amazing and I will continue to take lessons during my last semester of Iowa State!

9/11

ANNIVERSARY

As Iowa State remembered the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the carillon played its part. Alumna Amy Brandau played *America the Beautiful*, followed by a tolling of the bells, one for each year since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

CARILLON FESTIVAL 2011, JOSH HELLYER

On Saturday, September 24, the Iowa State University Department of Music & Theatre hosted the 2011 Carillon Festival, sponsored by the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation. Guest carillonneur for the Festival was Arie Abbenes, city carillonneur of Utrecht, The Netherlands, who brought 50 years of carillon experience to our campus in Ames, Iowa.



Carillon Festival Attendees

The Festival began with a master class with Professor Abbenes at the Stanton Memorial Carillon in Iowa State's beloved campanile. Participants included five Iowa State

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ENJOY THE NOON
CONCERTS EVERY
WEEKDAY 11:50-12:10
ON THE WEB

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/feeds/carillon/>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

VEISHEA, Saturday, April 21st

Current carillon students will once again be providing a concert in the afternoon.

Public tours will be offered by Society of Carillon Alumni members.

CARILLON FESTIVAL CONTINUED



Professor Abbenes' public lecture:

The Music Practice of Jacob van Eijck, Carillonneur and Composer in Utrecht from 1625 til 1657."

carillon students: Craig Cunningham, Lucy O'Connor, Erin Reger, Zachary Valentine, myself, and guests from Omaha, Nebraska and Grinnell, Iowa. Over a 90-minute class, Professor Abbenes provided insightful comments, and brought an interesting perspective of a European carillon player. He also demonstrated playing techniques and discussed how to achieve expressions on the carillon.

After the master class, students had lunch with Professor Abbenes at the base of the campanile. Carillon students were eager to ask questions about Professor Abbenes' long career as a carillonneur and as a teacher.

The Festival continued with the premiere performance of this year's winning composition of the 2011 ISU Carillon Composition Competition. This competition was held to encourage the writing of original carillon compositions by young composers. Since the first competition in 1995, composers from around the world sent in their compositions. This year contestants included composers from Austria, Portugal, United States, and an 11-year old student from Ames, Iowa. Judges for the competition were Arie Abbenes, Jeffrey Prater and Tin-Shi Tam. The winning composition is "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Alex Weiser of New York City, who is a recent graduate of Yale University.

After a short break, Professor Abbenes performed a solo recital of five pieces, including three of his own carillon arrangements: J.S. Bach's "Concerto after Alessandro Marcello, BWV 594", "Two Nocturnes" by John Field, and

two pieces from Latin America: "Valse III" by Agustin B. Mangoré and "Con sentimiento – tango" by A. Malando. Program also included "The Arrival of Willibrord" by Louis Andriessen (dedicated to Abbenes), and Jos Lerinckx's "Passacaglia".

The central location of the campanile provided a large audience for the recital, as guests arrived for three

weddings taking place on campus, including one just feet from the campanile. Audience listened to the recital while enjoying a day of beautiful sunny weather on the lawn of the central campus. After the recital, Professor Abbenes and audience gathered for a reception with cake and refreshments prepared by Lucy O'Connor and myself. Among the audience were Robert Lindemeyer, President of the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation, and GCNA



Carillon Student Lucy, also does cake decorating. She & Josh supplied the treats after the concert.

members from Omaha, Nebraska and Rochester, Minnesota, and President of the GCNA, David Johnson from St. Paul, Minnesota. Campanile tours were given to an enthusiastic crowd of ISU students and area residents.

In addition to the events on Saturday, Professor Abbenes gave a public lecture on Thursday, September 22, in ISU Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall entitled "The Music Practice of Jacob van Eijck, Carillonneur and Composer in Utrecht from 1625 til 1657." In this lecture, he played several videos of his own performances of van Eijck's works in Utrecht's Dom Tower. Van Eijck is best known for his flute repertoire and his carillon arrangements. His collection "Der Fluyten Lust-hof" is the largest collection of music for solo instrument. Among the pieces played were van Eijck's adaptations and variations of such varied European works as "Preludium of Voorspel", "Doen Daphne", and "Lus de mi alma". He also discussed the history of 17th century Dutch music, and the importance of the carillon as a Dutch folk instrument.

All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better festival experience. If you missed this year's Carillon Festival, be sure to come to our next one in 2013!

UPDATED SURROUNDINGS

The area around the campanile, known as Central Campus, is used for weddings, VEISHEA events, Homecoming events, Greek events, mass campaniling, and photo opportunities.

This past spring, the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation was notified the grounds around the Campanile were going to receive a facelift. \$35,000 from the Campanile Endowment fund were used to provide updates to the area.



Taking out all the overgrown yew on the northeast side.

Justification provided to the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation included First ISU President, Dr. A.S. Welch's vision of central campus.

Welch was a firm believer of the English naturalized landscape with irregular groups of trees with openings and hollows and trees advancing before or retiring behind other.

There should be a sameness of character with the tree's shape, texture, and color. He believed

the character of the area should be a long, sweeping line of irregular groups of round-headed trees of maple and oak with spiry-topped evergreens interspersed.

In the past few years a loss of several mature trees left major gaps in Welch's desired sweeping line. In addition, overgrown shrubbery was obscuring rather than enhancing the architecture on the north side, along with the archway had become hidden by overgrown yew, and the flagstone becoming a trip-hazard. On the southeast side, a large maple branch fell, taking several other trees with it, leaving the southeast side of the Campanile bare.



New flagstone waiting to be laid down on the southwest side.

Trying to follow Dr. Welch's vision, new landscaping included planting new understory and canopy trees, removing overgrown shrubs on the north side, and replacing the flagstone was completed by the University.

Stop by during VEISHEA to take a look!

STUDENT CARILLON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED

The Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation was able to endow a student scholarship since the last newsletter. Over \$25,000 was raised to endow the scholarship.

Each year the music department can award 1-2 scholarships

that will pay for the music fees associated with taking carillon lessons. This scholarship will be available to students that have taken at least 2 semesters of carillon lessons.

ISU SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Officers:

Amy Brandau, President

Michael Pawlovich, Vice-President

Eric Wittrock, Secretary

Ex-officio:

Tin-Shi Tam

tstam@iastate.edu

Board of Directors:

Amy Brandau

abrandau@iastate.edu

Michael Pawlovich

tigerpaw@isualum.com

Eric Wittrock

ewittroc@yahoo.com

Julie Hart

jumaha20@hotmail.com

Debra Schiel-Larson

dlarson@ci.johnston.ia.us

EXCERPTS FROM THE PAST

As an Iowa State student from the 1990's, I have no memory of there not being noon concerts and a University Carillonneur. I am thankful for all the past donors who made my experience possible. I'm excited to know that today the carillon, campanile, carillonneur faculty position and even student scholarships are endowed for future generations.

There was much written about the time period when the bells were silent in the early 90's. Here are some excerpts from an article by Chuck Offenburger, in the Des Moines Register from Fall of 1991. As the Iowa Life columnist, he always seemed to tell it like it was.

As the bells of Iowa State now go sorrowfully silent

Ames, IA.—If I were Cyclone football coach Jim Walden, I'd run one play at today's Iowa State—Iowa football game here, call time out, go to the middle of the field on a microphone and say, "We're not going to go on with this until we pass the hat and get enough money to hire someone to play our carillon!"

I think even Hawkeye fans would be happy to pull a few bucks out of their pockets.

Holy smokes, can you believe it? The ISU administration announced this week that because of budget cuts, there's no money to hire a carillonneur, so the 93-year tradition of noontime and night time

performances by someone who has climbed the 82 steps up the campanile is being discontinued.

So what kind of dim bulbs are running things here at Iowa State? If they can't figure out a way to save their carillon, they're going to be eaten alive in the rest of this budget mess. They might just as well go ahead and turn the cows loose down at the ag barns, close the vet school, turn off the home ec ovens, wave goodbye to the engineers and all go home.

"I'm grossly disappointed," said Richard Von Grabow, 59, now of Vallejo, Calif. He's the man who retired last spring after 18 years as ISU carillonneur and isn't being replaced. "I poured my lifeblood into that potion to make it a fine, respected music job. One of the reasons I announced in September, 1990, that I would be retiring in May of 1991 was to help the university have plenty of time to come up with a replacement."

And listen to Ira Schroeder, now 89. "The arts always seem to suffer badly when it comes to financial cuts," Schroeder said, "but I don't really understand it. Through the 38 years I was there, there was a certain amount of respect and reverence toward the carillon, since it was started in 1893 and is the

oldest tradition on the campus. People nowadays must not realize this."

Do they even realize what the alma mater song is? It's called "The Bells of Iowa State"; you can find it printed in the football program.

Green hills for thy throne, and for crown a golden melody.

Singing in the hearts of all who bring thee love and loyalty.

Dear Alma Mater, make our spirits great,

True, and valiant like the bells of Iowa State.

Read it and weep, I guess.

Sue Haug, interim music department chair at ISU, said after this week's carillon announcement, "There have been a lot of concerned students, and I've heard a few ideas for fund-raisers. This isn't the only position we've had to give up here, but it happens to be a visible one. The carillon is important to the university, but to our overall music program, there are other positions that are really more important."

I'm not so sure about that.